(c) Works are proceeding as per planned schedule drawn up for their completion.

(d) The cost escalation of the above projects are as under:—

i. Daund-Baramati	—Nil
ii Gondia-Chanda Fort (248 kms)	—Nil
iii Manmad-Aurangabad-Parbhani-Parli Vaijnath	—Rs 76.00 crores
iv Parbhani-Purna-Mudkhed-Adilabad and Purna-Mudkhed	—Rs 32.00 crores
v Miraj-Londa	—Nil

Priority to Transportation of Foodgrain and State Agro-Produce

2492. SHRI BHUPINER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways would accord priority to transportation of foodgrains and other agro-produce from surplus States to deficit States for which facility is confined to State procurement agencies only;

(b) whether it is a fact that freight charges by road are four times higher as compared to the Railways; and

(c) if so, whether Railways would allow wagons for transportation to all, other than State agencies without delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) Priority in allotment of wagons for goods traffic is accorded as per provisions of Preferential Traffic Schedule General Order No. 77. Foodgrains sponsored by Ministry of Food, Food Corporation of India and Ministry of Defence move under priority 'B' and when sponsored by State Govt. and State Agencies it is accorded priority 'C' Foodgrains on trade account when offered in full train loads is accorded priority 'D'. Important agro produce have been accorded to priority 'C'.

(b) It is likely that road rates may be higher between certain pairs of points and lower between others. Road rates could also differ from region to region.

(c) Traffic offered by traders and other than State agencies is also cleared subject to operational and route quota restrictions, priority and date of registration of indents.

अनधिकृत व्यक्तियों द्वारा रेल यात्रियों को परेशान किया जाना

2493. **श्री विट्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव** : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मेल और एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों में यात्रा के दौरान अनधिकृत रूप से चाय और अन्य खाद्य पदार्थ बेचने वाले व्यक्ति दिनभर यात्रियों को परेशान करते रहते हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार रखती है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री के० सी० लेंका) : (क) कुछ ऐसी घटनाएं नोटिस में आई हैं ।